

SATURDAY GAZETTE, FEBRUARY 21.

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.
WM. P. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAS. M. DAVIS, Associate Editor.

Our PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

The Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.
An independent weekly journal of LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS, and LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fully and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Settled Clergymen in the county and all Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertisers. Our weekly circulation is 1250 copies, extending to every part of Essex county. Subscriptions and advertisements will be received in Montclair, by E. Madison; in Caldwell, by M. Harrison; in Verona, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H. Winans, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to WM. P. LYON, Editor and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

TOWN AFFAIRS AGAIN.

The Collectorship of the town requires only a passing notice. Not because of its smaller consequence, but for the reason that its importance is obvious to all thoughtful citizens. The collection, safe-keeping and accounting for \$70,000 to \$100,000 is not a trivial matter, and demands not only known integrity, but more than usual intelligence. Something of *suspect* in mode is an acquisition not to be overlooked in his selection. It would soften the asperities that frequently appear in the taxgatherer's intercourse with citizens. But we believe that he is also the cashier to pay bills when authorized by the township committee. This involves other qualifications, and rightfully includes the functions of a Comptroller.

We next come to consider the Township Committee. It is quite common, we think, to regard this Board as the Central power, the supreme authority of the township, and to rail at or berate them for delinquencies in any quarter, or for failing to initiate and carry on improvements which may seem desirable. Their relations to the town are quite misunderstood. Their powers, if we understand them, are not organic, they are only delegated, and even then they must be specifically defined and set forth by legislative enactments. They have no original power to make an ordinance, to forbid a trespass, to abate a nuisance or to authorize an improvement. Perhaps we may qualify this a little, as an instance does occur to us where after a town meeting vote placed in the hands of the town committee \$500, to spend in improving the Park they did call into exercise their combined original genius, and Preston said Park was forthwith surrounded with a cordon of gaudy guardians four feet high, stalk and stiff, at regular intervals of about eight feet. Albeit, their defensive ability must consist in their power to frighten off intruders, for they are nude and have neither arms nor legs.

But in general and always, their authority is limited to certain well defined administrative acts, chiefly such as endorsing the Assessor's estimate, auditing bills and making drafts upon the Comptroller, overseeing the so-called repairs or highways after the people have voted an appropriation for that purpose, etc.

We have no disposition to disparage the office, much less the worthy gentlemen comprising our township committee. But we think the relations and duties of that committee ought to be understood. Possibly we ourselves misapprehend them; if so, we shall be glad to be enlightened. And if we are right, we hope it will be seen that our villages are in a very primitive state of government; quite too much so for a compact town of six or seven thousand and people of such varied characters and diverse personal interests and possible impulses. Do we not hold a *town government*? Are we not willing enough to be allowed some measure of self-government of town rights? of discretion? of responsibility?

Then why should we not obtain from the Legislature an act of incorporation for our village which would give us a board of trustees with certain municipal rights, authority and prerogatives? Or it may be that the Legislature could confer all desirable powers upon the Town Committee. But we want a government that can make necessary ordinances about sanitary regulations, corner leases, Sabbath observance, sidewalk incumbrance, street signs, etc., etc.

We shall look with interest for the forthcoming report of our present township board.

KING LUKALALA.—Despatches from San Francisco announce the death of the King of the Sandwich Islands, on the island of Hawaii, on the 3d instant, aged 29 years. He had been on the throne just over a year and was very popular with his people. Kalakaua, the most powerful chief in the nation, is thought of as his successor.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR BLOOMFIELDERS TO CONSIDER.

Editor of SATURDAY GAZETTE:

In the last issue of your wide-awake journal, you remark, under the head of "Despository," that—"New Yorkers are to be commended for their patience, if they can submit to the oppressive taxation of about three-and-one-half per cent, and that we would treat them better if they would come out to Essex County."

Allow me to take this remark for a text upon which to found a few remarks concerning the interests of the beautiful town in which we reside.

There can be no sounder argument ad-

vanced for the purpose of inducing desirable parties to locate in our village than this fact. The first enquiry made by proposed residents of any town is generally—

What is the tax rate? If it is low compared with other places, all things else being equal, that place will not be long in taking its stand among the thriving and growing towns that are becoming so conspicuous throughout our State.

But while the tax rate is now low as compared with New York City, we must bear in mind that the city offers many advantages to offset this matter of taxation among which are the low prices of articles used for daily consumption.

It is a well known fact that the majority of articles in daily use by the inhabitants of this town—particularly groceries and meats, etc., are considerably higher than in many other places.

If any proof is required concerning this matter, let any one take note of the baskets and bundles to be seen on the train upon a Saturday afternoon or evening, or examine the contents of the boxes delivered by the express.

Now, Mr. Editor, while you are doing a noble work for this town in advertising its claims to attention, do not forget these causes which are a drawback to its advancement, and give a little attention to the many dealers in different articles in daily use, and show to them by the efforts of your able pen that it is better for them selves and others, and the general prosperity of the town, to sell their goods at rates that will compare with other localities.

In another column of your paper you call attention to the importance of the office of assessor, and remark that the law is at fault in not giving him assistants or associates constituting a board of assessment. In the opinion of the writer of this article this is just what is needed. No one man is capable of filling this office satisfactorily to all the tax-payers of this township. In all kinds and descriptions of private business there are very few men who do not require, and prefer to have, associates to confer with from time to time regarding the advisability of measures connected with their business. There is no one so self-reliant as to think that his judgment is infallible, and there is not a doubt that the confirmation of his opinions or action in regard to assessments would be acceptable to any one holding this important office.

There have been many complaints in Bloomfield as well as other places regarding the manner in which property is assessed. It has been the custom among those holding this office to rate very valuable plots of ground at a very low figure as compared with their intrinsic value. Lands which would sell for from three to five thousand dollars per acre have been rated at five or six hundred, because the owners claimed they did not derive any income from such lands commensurate with their saleable value. But if they sold a building lot to some poor struggling mechanic he would be compelled to pay a tax upon its full value. This method of doing business is evident to all, excepting those owning such lands, is radically wrong, and demands that some provision shall be made that all may get their just dues without fear or favor. Because a plot of ground is called a farm is no reason why it should not meet its just liabilities even if no income is derived from its farming operations.

In the apportionment of taxation in any township a certain amount has to be raised, and it is only just and fair that all should share the burden equally. There is nothing that has hindered the growth of the many towns throughout the State so much as unequal taxation. If the owners of large tracts of land were compelled to pay their fair share of taxation as all other property is compelled to do they would not be enabled to hold their lands for economic purposes as they now can do, and so retard the growth and prosperity of the locality they inhabit. If a fair deal were had in this matter the rate would be less and the prices of real estate brought within the bounds of reason and common sense.

As you suggest, Mr. Editor, what is wanted is not one but a board of assessors who, looking at the whole welfare of the place, would not scruple to appraise all property at its true value.

Another cause that is silently at work to hinder the growth and development of our towns and villages is so much special legislation. It is astonishing to see the amount of work cut out for the present session of our legislature. It seems to be the fashion for each and every one to apply for special acts for all manner of purposes, and while some of such acts may accomplish some good, the general tenor of them, taken as a whole, can only produce confusion to the permanent interests of the country at large.

There are applications now before the legislature to divide a township in this vicinity, which is already too small, but some of the parties concerned are dissatisfied and want to start housekeeping on their own account, and are so ambitious as to want to be governed by a COUNCIL consisting of seven members.

Such measures as this, while gratifying the wishes of a few, can only result in in-

creasing the taxes of the majority, and it is to be hoped there are enough sensible members among our representatives to throw overboard this and all other schemes of similar calibre that may be presented.

What is wanted are general laws that will apply to ALL towns and villages. Special acts generally emanate from Rings and interested parties who often have ends of their own to accomplish while the public good is a secondary matter in their consideration. If we would preserve the liberties bequeathed to us by our fathers we will give the subject of special legislation a wide berth.

E. R. MOORE.

THE NEW TEMPERANCE DEPARTMENT.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS AT LAST.

Total abstinence, either through moral union, or Sons of Temperance Association, or Local Option legislation, or Legal penalties, must all stand in abeyance. They are too slow, too uncertain, too ineffective. A new inspiration has been vouchsafed to the good cause, a new commandment is inaugurated and a most remarkable crusade organized, systemized, and persistent, against all traffic in alcoholic liquors. And it is managed and led by women. We like this. No single Joan D'Arc claims any special divine mission to marshal panoplied hosts to do or die, to kill the adversary or themselves to perish. But piety is nevertheless the spirit of the movement.

To reclaim the wandering and the prodigal, to reform the wayward, and to rescue the fallen is still woman's holy mission.

Again this gentle but patient angels of mankind appear in their trust, most charming and irresistible element. Have they not a right to be aroused by the memories of long endured sufferings, of desolate homes, of outcast husbands, of vagrant sons, of hapless daughters, of inconsolable widowhood, of destitute families, of estranged kindred, of imminent social barriers? Is it strange that they are fired by the conviction that the *dram shop* is the prolific source of all this evil work, of drunkenness, ignorance, brutality, waste, poverty, impaired health, shattered intellect, premature decay, and horrible, untimely death? Animated by the faith of the Son of God, and reminded of His gracious promise to His disciples that they should be endued with power from on high; and that persevering importunity would surely prevail; encouraged also by the wise and good and strong men in the community, these women have combined together—not to secure a nominal right to vote, or to exercise an uncertain official function; not to take the law into their hands and usurp unwarranted prerogative—but to visit, in mouse, the places where husbands, sons, and brothers have been ruined and slain.

One would think it must be appalling sight to the vendors of the destructive poison to see a regiment of women marching up to the very batteries whence the shots had issued which made them widows and orphans and paupers. With broken hearts, and tearful eyes, with pathetic words and persistent intent they enter the saloons—the benevolent pledge is their passport—they ask, they plead, they sing, they pray, they demand cessation of the heartless traffic which is destroying tens of thousands annually. They are *DYING* and, in a large number of cases, they prevail. Saloons are closed. The poison is buried. The pledge is signed.

The murdering rascal becomes a man, a citizen—peer of the respected, the trusted, the loved.

We confess it looks to us that this thing is of God and cannot be overthrown.

"There is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Most certainly we shall give all possible countenance and encouragement to this movement, and would gladly see it inaugurated in every town in the United States. We have much hope for its success wherever it is undertaken, and of its ultimate universal triumph. Where are the noble and resolute fifty women in Bloomfield or Montclair who are ready to be employed of God in this glorious work of drying up the fountain springs of iniquity?

We quote in another column a clear and interesting narrative of the movement in Washington, Ohio. Don't fail to read it.

For Saturday Gazette.

WHY I DID NOT MEND THE PANTS.

This is a pretty large winkle-hawk, wife do you think you can mend it, and shall I take it to the tailor? Can't afford to get a new pair, so it must be nicely done you see.

Tailor indeed! a woman would mend it if you took them there. I guess what woman can do, another may, said I, a little piqued at the suggestion. So taking the pants seated myself to the task. What woman ever liked to do such mending thought I, or who does it unless just in the spirit of it, and I am not just now. Will look at our Village weekly a little, before beginning the task. So suiting action to thought, took up the Gazette, running my eye over some of the paragraphs read. "Woman's Suffrage," must just read this for the pants. So I read, and I too was set to thinking. The writer is nearly right, but then if women are allowed to vote, why not vote. I'd like to know who, she is, would like to mention or name for another year to my mind, just the man for either office, elder or deacon, a jolly man, character unblemished, able in prayer and exhortation. He leads a quiet, humble life, too much so maybe to be popular, nevertheless he ought to be one of the pillars of the church, but this won't do—those pants! How stiff and unwieldy they are. This is part of woman's Ashenputtelike work. All women have more or less of

it to do; yes, and the men have their part too. No one knows about such work of the women save their immediate family.

The beans they pick from the ashes are easily cleaned and made fit for use and Ashenputtelike fingers are washed and no one is wiser for the disagreeable work, but rather the family are bettered, more comfortable and happy. But men often do unmanly, mean, contemptible things, from which the ashes cannot be washed off; it adheres to them and will, all their lives, no matter how they may stonewall for it, there is a grey, dusky tinge which is always discernable. A woman's Ashenputtelike life often and mostly consists in being obliged to do those things which her sensitive, delicate nature rather shuns from, when she has not the means to employ others to do them for her. That feature of a man's life is generally of a public nature. There are dozens of ways in which he can sit in the ashes and do. Several suggest themselves. When a man tries to build up his own reputation by decrying another, by imputing false motives to his acts, by telling unqualified untruths, by trying to hold him in an odious light before the public, what is this but an Ashenputtelike life, without any shadow of betterment, for there are no fairy wands to do away with its evil effects. How I despise such men. Happily I believe there are not many such in a place, but they are to be found and their followers. Men who—

"Why wife I thought you were asleep long ago, what are you doing?"

"I was going to mend your pants, but I believe I've been reading, writing and musing."

"Yes, and while you mused the fire burned out. Let us hear what you have been musing and writing about."

"That's first-rate, wife," said husband,

"send it to the paper. I'm no judge you know, but I reckon you'll have to tell next time how the pants did get mended."

MAUD MANNING.

HOME MATTERS.

BLOOMFIELD.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre. Feb. 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
7 A. M. 38° 41° 26° 30° 26° 14° 20°

Average through the day. 42° 40° 39° 37° 35° 33° 30°

Bishop Odenheimer will administer the rite of Confirmation in St. John's Church, Bloomfield, on Sunday evening next. Service at half past seven.

A meeting of the officers and managers of the Ladies' Relief Committee of Bloomfield will be held at the residence of Mrs. Jason Crane on Monday, the 23d inst., at 3 o'clock P. M.

Mrs. R. N. DODD, Secretary.

Bloomfield, Feb. 17, 1874.

The EUCLEAN SOCIETY held their stated meeting on Monday, the 16th inst.

The meeting was of an interesting though mainly of a business character. Among other things act—was taken to effect that the Society should hold at stated intervals, an open season, to which the members may invite their friends—both ladies and gentlemen. The first of these literary Receptions will be held at the next regular session of the Society which occurs on Monday, the 2nd of March.

There are two denominations of Christians in this place, Presbyterian and Baptist. The former is a large and influential church with a membership of some five hundred. About a year ago their house of worship was destroyed by fire, when a temporary building was erected in which their stated meetings are now held. On the site of the "old church," however they have commenced to build a more imposing edifice, which, when completed, will be an ornament to the village. The size of this, on the ground floor is 60x90 feet, the church will have a seating capacity of one thousand, and is expected to cost eighty thousand dollars. The pastor, Rev. G. T. Berry, is deservedly popular among the people. His sermons are argumentative and logical, and his intercourse with the people is marked by geniality and courtesy.

LADIES' RELIEF SOCIETY.—Receipts for the week ending February 16, 1874: From Horace Dodd, \$5; a friend, \$2; a friend, \$2; from Mrs. Coggeshall, \$10; from Mr. Z. B. Dodd, \$1; Madison Bros., \$5; Mr. Charles Hoff, \$2; *Bloomfield Record*, \$5; Christ Mission Chapel, Wallingford, \$3.88; First Church, Bloomfield, \$23.28. Total, \$84.16. Disbursements, \$53. From a Friend, 25 lbs. of Tea.

Miss A. L. WARD, Treasurer.

Mr. DOG "GRIE" IS LOST.—Black Newfounland, with white breast, ears, tail bushy and tipped with white. Information gratefully received by SAMUEL A. MILLER, Bloomfield Post Office.

BLOOMFIELD LOCAL OPTION BILL.—The Judiciary Committee of our Legislative Assembly proposed adverse to the Local Option Bill. Our Assemblyman, Mr. Hale, supported it but it failed, and was laid on the table. Thus the bill, on which some of our people had quite set their hearts, was killed for this session. We do not enquire who was to blame, for, though we have been convinced that it goes a very little ways towards suppressing intemperance and does nothing towards eradicating this momentous evil.

MONTCLAIR.

A meeting of the local voters will be held at Association Hall, Jacobs Building on Wednesday, Feb. 25th, at 7 o'clock, to consider the petition of Jared E. Harrison and others to Macademize or otherwise improve Valley Road, from Watchung Ave. Southerly to Walnut St., thence Walnut St. Eastwardly to Grove St., thence Grove St. and Elm St. from Walnut St. Southerly to Orange Road. A general attendance of the property owners affected by the improvement would be a good thing.

The High School cleared about thirty-five dollars for the Cabinet of Mineralogy on Prof. Morse's Lecture.

That Lecture, by the way, was one of the most enjoyable and rational entertainments of the season.

A bill was introduced in the Legislature on Monday by Mr. Hale empowering the Town Committee to employ detectives.

Lenten Services in St. Luke's Church on Wednesday and Friday at 11 A.M. Thursday and Saturday at 4 P